

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed March 6, 2006, claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,910,074 (Amin '074) in view of US. Patent No. 6,668,167 (McDowell '167).

Applicants respectively traverse. After a careful review of the pending Final Office Action, the cited references, and Applicants' claim clarifications, Applicants respectively request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

I. APPLICANTS' PRESENTLY CLAIMED INVENTION

Applicants' presently claimed invention is generally directed to a method of bridging two communication sessions on a predetermined network device, such as a conference server. Applicants' specification explains that the conference server bridges the connections "internally in order to establish end-to-end RTP sessions between users." For instance, as illustrated by the dotted lines in Figure 2, conference server 108 internally bridges communication sessions between wireless phone 202 and SIP telephone 214.

On page 26, lines 4-5, Applicants' specification explains that the "user agents are not aware of a local IP address and an RTP port associated with the destination entity." Alternatively, the user agents "have the knowledge of IP address and RTP port on the conference server 108." *Id.* at page 26, lines 5-6. Applicants' specification continues to explain that "[w]hen the conference server 108 bridges the RTP connections between the UA-A [(User Agent-A)] 370 and an appropriate RTP session associated with the UA-B [(User Agent-B)] 372, the conference server 108 responds with a 200 OK message 416, and the conference server 108 may forward RTP packets between the UA-A [(User Agent-A)] 370 and the UA-B [(User Agent-

B)] 372, as indicated by status bar 418.” *Id.* at page 26, lines 6-9. As shown in Figure 4A, status bar 418 indicates that packets are forwarded directly from UA-A 370 to UA-B 372.

Thus, according to Applicants’ presently claimed invention, when a message is sent from a first user terminal to a second user terminal, a communication session that directly links the two user terminals is not established. Rather, the conference server 108 uses the established communication sessions between the conference server 108 and each of the user agents (UA-A 370 to UA-B 372) to bridge the two communication sessions together. In this regard, as noted above, Applicants’ specification explains that “user agents are not aware of a local IP address and an RTP port associated with the destination entity.” *Id.* at page 26, lines 4-5.

As Applicants further explain, according to an exemplary embodiment, when a user decides to send an instant voice message to one or more recipient, the user identifies the intended recipients and initiates instant voice messaging. When a user registers and subscribes to one or more services, the user may receive a list of users with whom the user is authorized to communicate, and the user’s presence information (online state) is sent to any online user who is authorized to know the user’s presence information. In one embodiment, during the registration, for instance, the user may restrict which users are authorized to know the user’s presence information. In such an embodiment, the user may request to have an authorization to communicate with a number of users, but only some of those users may be given an authorization to know the online state of the user. In one embodiment, the authorization server 110 may store a user profile including the list of authorized correspondents as well as other user-specific information. As mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, once the user registers and subscribes to one or more services, the conference server 108 provisions an RTP session to a user terminal.

According to an exemplary embodiment, a user terminal may include a graphical interface configured to display the user's authorized correspondents and further configured to receive user's selections of correspondents to whom the user wishes to send an instant message. Alternatively, a user terminal may be configured to play a list of correspondents to the user and receive selections inputs (such as digits dialed by the user) as means to determine the intended correspondents. However, it should be understood that means by which the user makes the intended correspondents' selection may be application specific, and many different embodiments are possible. Further, once a user selects the list of intended recipients, the user may initiate sending instant voice messages to the intended recipients by selecting a predetermined selection input on a user terminal. For instance, the selection input may include a predetermined button on a user terminal, or a graphical selection identifier that may be selected by the user on the user terminal. It should be understood that different embodiments are possible as well, depending upon the type of a client terminal. Hereinafter, it is assumed that a user selects a predetermined "talk" button to initiate sending instant voice messages to the intended recipients.

Thus, according to an exemplary embodiment, when a user selects a list of intended recipients and selects a talk button on a user terminal, the conference server 108 internally bridges RTP connections between the user and the recipients specified by the user. Since the call set up as well as differences in end user codecs and other device features are resolved ahead of time as part of the registration and subscription processes, when a user selects a talk button, the user instantly sends a real-time voice message to the intended recipients. Applicants' Specification at Page 17 Line 4 – Page 18 Line 13.

Therefore, in this regard, Applicants' independent claim 1 specifically recites a method of "bridging the first communication session to the second communication session on the

predetermined network device.” To further distinguish Applicants’ presently claimed invention from the currently cited references, Applicants’ have provided yet further claim clarifications. For example, independent claim 1 has now been clarified to expressly recite the limitation “identifying an intended recipient and initiating an activation request.”

II. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

As previously noted, independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Amin ‘074 and McDowell ‘167.

Under M.P.E.P. § 2143, in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claim over a combination of references, the Office Action must establish that the combination discloses or suggests every element recited in the claim. Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness rejection of these claims since neither Amin ‘074 nor McDowell ‘167, separately or in combination, teach every element of independent claim 1. In particular, neither Amin ‘074 nor McDowell ‘167, separately or in combination, teach or suggest a method the step of “bridging the first communication session to the second communication session on the predetermined network device” after implementing the step of “identifying an intended recipient and initiating an activation request.”

For example, the Final Office Action concedes that Amin ‘074 does not teach a method of “bridging the first communication session to the second communication session on the predetermined network device.” (“Amin does not explicitly point out predetermined network device, bridging the first communication session to the second communication session on the predetermined network device.”) March 6, 2007 Office Action at page 3. Consequently, Amin ‘074 fails to teach or suggest Applicants’ steps of “bridging the first communication session to

the second communication session on the predetermined network device” after implementing the step of “identifying an intended recipient and initiating an activation request.”

McDowell ‘167 fails for similar reasons. Thus, the sole issue is whether McDowell ‘167 makes up for this deficiency in Amin ‘074. On pages 3-4 of the Office Action the Examiner cited “elements of fig 1 and fig 2, lines 23-39” in McDowell ‘167 in an effort to establish Applicants’ claimed invention. Applicants have reviewed these portions and submits that McDowell ‘167 clearly does not make up for Amin ‘074’s deficiency of “bridging the first communication session to the second communication session on the predetermined network device,” let alone the steps of teach or suggest a method the step of “bridging the first communication session to the second communication session on the predetermined network device” after implementing the step of “identifying an intended recipient and initiating an activation request.”

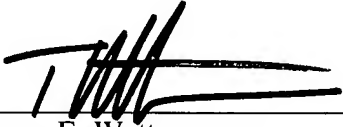
For at least this reason, Applicants submit that McDowell ‘567 fails to make up for Amin 074’s deficiency of “bridging the first communication session to the second communication session on the predetermined network device” after implementing the step of “identifying an intended recipient and initiating an activation request.” Because the combination of Amin ‘074 and McDowell ‘167 fails to teach or disclose all of the elements of any of Applicants’ independent claim 1, Applicants submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made. Therefore, Applicants submit that amended independent claim 1 is allowable. Each of dependent claims 2-15 depends from, and thus incorporates all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Thus, for at least the same reason, dependent claims 2-15 are also allowable.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the remarks above claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance and solicit action to that end. If there are any matters that may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: August 31, 2007

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